

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035861

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 IO-10 PM-03

SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035861

TOSEC 402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, US

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 30, SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA

AS OF 0600 HOURS (EST) FEBRUARY 17, 1975

ASMARA ITSELF IS QUIET. HOWEVER, FIGHTING IS REPORTED TO
BE CONTINUING NW OF ASMARA IN THE DIRECTION OF KEREN.

A MORE OR LESS RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INFORMED THE CONGEN
IN ASMARA THAT WHILE THE SALE OF KAGNEW POWER TO HOMES
MIGHT BE ACCEPTED AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, ITS USE BY
INDUSTRY WOULD BE REGARDED BY THE ELF AS INTERVENTION AND
WOULD RESULT IN REPRISALS AGAINST KAGNEW.

THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT ERITREAN COMMANDO POLICE(CP)
ARE BEING REPLACED IN ASMARA BY CP FROM ADDIS AND THAT
ADDITIONAL TROOPS (APPROXIMATELY 300) FROM THE TERRITORIAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 035861

ARMY ARE BEING AIRLIFTED INTO ASMARA.

A CONVOY OF EIGHT TANK TRUCKS (BELIEVED TO CONTAIN GASOLINE) HAS REACHED ASMARA, PRESUMABLY FROM MASSAWA. ON SATURDAY AN EARLIER CONVOY HAD BEEN TURNED BACK WITH ONE TRUCK DESTROYED.

THE SUDANESE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING ETHIOPIA'S AGREEMENT TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE SUDAN TO CONTINUE TALKS AIMED AT A POSSIBLE CEASE-FIRE.

SYRIA HAS ACCUSED THE EPMG OF CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ERITREA. THE EPMG HAS DENIED THE CHARGE AND HAS ACCUSED SYRIA OF INTERFERING IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OF ARMING MISGUIDED BANDITS. INGERSOLL

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